

The winter of 2017-2018 has been a busy one for all involved with Dover Foodbank. Here's all the latest info!

On Sunday 1st October 2017, exactly 4 years to the day since the opening of Dover Foodbank; its third annual thanksgiving service was held at The Beacon Church. Alan Boxall led the service, which centred on thinking about the gifts that God has blessed us with, and how we are using these in our lives.

We were reminded of how God provided when the Foodbank was initially opened, bringing exactly the right amount of food needed to be able to start (3000kg), and how His provision has continued through the generosity of people in the town. To date, 97,000kg of food has been donated, with 80,700kg of food already having been distributed to those in need in Dover, feeding 8,551 people.



Janet Jowett

Jonathan Wheeler then interviewed some of the Foodbank volunteers. Freddie Stoakes, who works in the warehouse, Peter Bentley, a volunteer at a distribution centre, and Janet Jowett, a stockroom volunteer, each spoke about how they are using the variety of gifts that God has given them in their roles to help those less fortunate in the local community. The main theme from all who spoke, was that volunteers are just ordinary people, but that as we use the gifts that God has given us to bless others and show them His love, he turns our ordinary actions in to something significant.



Freddie Stoakes

The Reverend Miriam Moul, speaking from 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, encouraged us to think about the God given gifts we have, and to make sure that we continue to share these gifts for the common good, and for His glory.

We would like to share Kerrie's experience of needing to visit Dover Foodbank to help everyone understand how important ongoing donations are.

Kerrie's story

There are 5 people in my family, 3 children and 2 adults. My partner works 40 hours a week and I stay with my children at home. Even with my partner working all the hours under the sun we struggle to pay bills and rent. Things got even worse when tax credits decided we owed them money from an overpayment! They halved my weekly tax credits meaning I couldn't afford to feed my family! With the pressure of 3 growing children and no way to feed them or buy nappies I reached out for help. My health visitor pointed me in the direction of Dover food bank! She gave me a voucher and I chose a day to go see them. When I walked in the people working for the food bank were so lovely, not judgemental and very understanding of my situation! They offered tea and biscuits for me and my partner while we waited. When talking to the lady about what sort of food and drink my family like she was still very understanding. With the use of the food bank we managed to feed our family which without the donations and the volunteers there we would not have been able to! I am so grateful for everyone that donates and everyone down at Dover food bank for being so understanding and helpful! Thank you!

To use Dover Foodbank, all clients first need to have a voucher which they can receive from one of our approved agencies. Please visit our website for more details: www.dover.foodbank.org.uk

Visit our website for an up-to-date most wanted list: www.dover.foodbank.org.uk

The people of Dover continue to be incredibly generous in donating finances, food and time to Dover Foodbank. Over the past few months we have seen a range of fundraising efforts take place and would like to thank every single person who has donated in any way. We could not do this without you!

A quiz night was held at Lydden Village Hall in January. Over £300 was raised for Dover Foodbank, which was spent on much needed food.



Dover Tales held a quiz at the Louis Armstrong, raising £100 and 4 bags of food.

Dover Farmers' Market organised a rubber duck race to raise funds which were able to be spent on baby food and milk.



Lydden Village Community Group held a Christmas Fair and donated all of their profits to Dover Foodbank.

Many people took up the challenge of completing a reverse advent calendar for the foodbank throughout December 2017.



On World Kindness Day, 'Help Our Town' Shop in Dover doubled their takings for the day and donated the funds to the foodbank.

We received many donations over the harvest season—thank you to all who donated in this way!



Volunteers spent time at Tesco in the run up to Christmas collecting donations from generous shoppers—thank you!



If you want to know more about how to donate to Dover Foodbank, please visit our website: www.dover.foodbank.org.uk or search for 'Dover Foodbank' on Facebook.